

SB 844 -- LIVESTOCK TRESPASS LIABILITY

SPONSOR: Parson (McGaugh)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 5 to 3.

Currently, if any horses, cattle, or other livestock break through any fence or trespass onto another's property, the owner of such animal is strictly liable for damages sustained by the animal to another's property. This bill specifies that the owner of such animal would only be liable for damages sustained to another's property if the animal owner was negligent.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that time after time in rural Missouri, someone will drive through your fences or tear open your gates, and through no fault of your own, your livestock gets out. This would relieve the property owner of liability for damages caused by livestock that were released through the fault of another.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Parson and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.